

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150554
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150554

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR IS US

SUBJECT: CALL ON JUSTICE MINISTER IN EAST JERUSALEM

1. FOLLOWING YOUR TELECON WITH STERNER, WE HAVE CAREFULLY REFLECTED ON YOUR NEED TO MEET WITH JUSTICE MINISTER RE HIS EXTRADITION PROBLEM AND YOUR REQUEST THAT EXCEPTION BE MADE TO STANDING RULE AGAINST YOUR MAKING CALL ON ANY ISRAELI OFFICIAL IN EAST JERUSALEM. WE APPRECIATE POTENTIAL THIS U.S. PRACTICE HAS FOR IRRITATING U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS, AS WELL AS INCONVENIENCE TO YOUR OPERATIONS.

2. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT VISIT BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO EAST JERUSALEM OFFICE OF JUSTICE MINISTER COULD ESCAPE UNNOTICED BY ARAB GOVERNMENTS, THERE NEVERTHELESS IS RISK IT WOULD NOT AND THAT, AT THIS DELICATE STAGE, SIGNAL WOULD BE GIVEN TO ARABS IMPLYING EVOLUTION IN U.S.
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POSTURE ON JERUSALEM ISSUE, WHICH WOULD BE VERY UNHELPFUL. WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER LIKELIHOOD THAT ISRAELIS WOULD SEE YOUR MAKING SUCH A CALL AS SIGNAL, WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO SUPPOSE U.S. IS NO LONGER VERY SERIOUS ABOUT JERUSALEM ISSUE, AND THIS TOO COULD HAVE TROUBLING CONSEQUENCES.

3. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE EXCEPTION SHOULD NOT BE MADE,
AND WE ASK THAT YOU ARRANGE YOUR GET-TOGETHER WITH JUSTICE
MINISTER IN ANOTHER WAY. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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